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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

10th April.—The Royal Air Force started big fires in Berlin after a three-hour raid The German High Command admitted heavy damage and neutral observers estimated the casualties to have been between 2,000 and 3,000. The Luftwaffe attacked Birmingham, Coventry and Newcastle. Ten German bombers were shot down.

11th April.—The Scharnorst and the Gneisenau, German battle-cruisers, were again heavily attacked at Brest by the Royal Air Force. A number of targets in the Rhineland and the Ruhr were also successfully hit.

There was but slight enemy air activity over the South-east coast of England.

12th April.—The Germans bombed Bristol.

The Royal Air Force spent Good Friday on the ground.

13th April.—Another Royal Air Force attack was made on Brest and German battle ships were bombed. Lorient, the submarine base in occupied France, was also attacked. The docks at Bordeaux and the nearby aerodrome of Merignac were successfully bombed.

Two German bombers were shot down by British and Free French naval units.

14th April.—Very little damage was caused by German raiders who dropped bombs at places in England far removed from each other. German aircraft were sighted over Northern Ireland, too, but no damage was reported.

15th April.—The Royal Air Force again attacked Brest and the German battle-cruisers, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. In a daylight attack on an escorted enemy convoy off the Dutch coast, a supply vessel of 4,000 tons was hit.

16th April.—The Royal Air Force made a heavy raid on Kiel, also on Boulogne and Borkum. Many enemy ships were sunk off the French Coast.

The German Air Force concentrated its attack on Belfast.

17th April.—London experienced its worst air raid of the war but fire-fighters and rescue-workers reduced damage and casualties and six enemy raiders were shot down. Lord and Lady Stamp and their heir were killed.

The Royal Air Force made widespread attacks on North Germany, particularly on Bremen. Brest, Heligoland and Belgian territory were also raided.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

10th April.—East of Bengazi, British troops withdrew to an area more suited for future operations. The Germans captured a few Generals and about two thousand prisoners, half of whom, however, were not combatants.

11th April.—Ethiopian Patriot Forces continued their pursuit of the Italians out of Abyssinia. Fourteen German dive bombers were shot down by fighter planes, and at Derna six Heinkels were destroyed.

12th April.—The enemy occupied Derna and El Meghalli. Four thousand Italian prisoners were captured in Addis Ababa.

13th April.—The Emperor of Ethiopia was reported to be leading his Patriot troops towards Addis Ababa.

14th April.—A German attack on Tobruk was beaten back. Heavy casualties and great damage were inflicted on the enemy. Leaving Tobruk aside, the enemy seized Bardia, and was on the Egyptian border.

Royal Air Force long-range bombers inflicted great damage on the harbour of Tripoli.

15th April.—Between two and three hundred German prisoners were captured, over a hundred Germans were killed, fifteen enemy tanks were destroyed and twenty-two enemy aircraft were brought down by the British forces at Tobruk when the Germans launched an attack on the town. The Royal Air Force raided Tripoli.

General Santini, Commander-in-Chief of the Italian army in Eritrea, was captured.

The military situation was discussed at a secret session of the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies which issued a statement later that the " House was glad to hear from the Government that the present conditions (in Libya and the Western Desert) cause no concern."

16th April.—An indication of the disintegration of enemy forces in Abyssinia was given by the Duke of Aosta, who sent an emissary to the British Headquarters to discuss terms of surrender.

Lord Halifax said at New York that the set-back in Libya caused by the withdrawal of troops for Greece was being countered by speedy reinforcement of the British Imperial troops.

The Royal Air Force made daylong raids on enemy concentrations in Libya.

An entire enemy convoy consisting of five supply ships and three destroyers, bound from Sicily for Tripoli was sunk by the British Mediterranean Fleet. The British lost only one destroyer.

17th April.—The British forces at Tobruk repulsed further attacks and a patrol penetrated enemy positions. The British Navy bombarded Fort Capuzzo.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC.

10th April.—It was disclosed by the United States War Department that all army transports had been diverted to move troops and supplies between the United States and her overseas bases and possessions.

The United States decided to establish air bases in Greenland. An agreement to that effect was signed with the Danish Minister in Washington, the German-controlled Government of Denmark being ignored.

11th April.—President Roosevelt reopened the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to American ships. American ships will soon be unloading war material on Egyptian soil.

The President asked Congress for broad statutory authority to take over any foreign-owned vessels lying idle in American ports.

12th April.—Thirty Danish ships, recently taken over by the United States Government (it was stated), would be used to carry war supplies to the Red Sea.

In an address at Chicago, Col. Donovan, who was Mr. Roosevelt's Special Envoy to Europe, pleaded that American convoys should escort American ships carrying supplies to the Allies.

13th April.—An ever-increasing flow of aero-plane-engines, guns and bombs was going to England, declared Major General Arnold, Chief of the United States Army Air Corps.

The Danish Minister in Washington was recalled by the German-controlled Danish Government, but he refused to go back. The United States continues to regard him as duly authorized.

15th April.—The United States, while rejecting the protest of the German-controlled Danish Government, stated that the use of the Greenland bases would be available to all the American Republics for the common defence of the Western Hemisphere.

President Roosevelt placed Mr. Harry Hopkins to be in charge of the purchasing and acquisition of war materials for all countries benefitting under the Lease and Lend Act.

A bill increasing the officer and enlisted strength of the United States Navy and Marine Corps to 232,000 was passed by the Senate and sent to White House. The President, under the Bill, is authorized to acquire 200,000 tons of auxiliary vessels for national defence and raise the number of men enlisted to 300,000 if necessary.

Legislation authorising President Roosevelt to purchase, requisition, or take possession of foreign merchant ships lying idle in United States ports was laid before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The British cruiser *Bonaventure* (5,450 tons) was torpedoed and sunk while escorting a convoy.

16th April.—President Roosevelt said that the United States would protect her merchantmen " wherever they go so long as they do not enter the combat zones proclaimed under the Neutrality Act."

Mr. Roosevelt stated that Greenland would be restored to Denmark as soon as she had an independent government and not a government under duress.

The President said that American help would continue to be given to China in an increasing measure.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Canadian Premier, left for Washington to see President Roosevelt.

17th April.—Col. Knox, U. S. Secretary of the Navy, said that British warships brought to the United States for repairs were given priority over everything else in the Navy Yards.

GREECE AND ITALY.

10th April.—German armoured forces entered Salonika. Local enemy attacks on the Albanian front, however, were repulsed by the Greeks.

11th April.—The Greek forces withdrew intact from Salonika. The Royal Air Force rendered magnificent help to the Greeks and inflicted very heavy damage on the Germans.

In Northern Greece British troops came into contact with the German troops for the first time.

12th April.—The Nazi advance in Florina continued. Terrific damage was caused to German armoured units by the Greeks.

13th April.—Three German planes were shot down when they raided Volos.

British forces in Northern Greece drove back German tanks and infantry on the eastern sector of the Allied Front, and the Royal Air Force continued to harass German motorised convoys.

14th April.—British infantry repulsed an attack by the crack Adolf Hitler division. Hitler chose his favoured division for the first attack on British Imperial troops but all the extraordinary care taken in the selection of proper men to fill this division was of no avail.

15th April.—The British forces in Greece repulsed several attacks by German mechanised troops on the right sector.

The German air force bombed the Piraeus region but their dive-bombers were driven back by the Royal Air Force who shot down five Junkers and damaged others.

The Greeks withdrew to prepared positions in the Northern Albanian front, evacuating Koritza, in view of the German thrust from Southern Serbia.

16th April.—The British Imperial Forces were in contact with the German forces over the whole of the front-line in Greece. Eleven enemy planes were destroyed by the Royal Air Force.

17th April.—The Anglo-Greek line in Western Macedonia repulsed heavy German attacks. The Royal Air Force continued to hammer away at German troop movements.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

10th April.—The Turkish Government would maintain a policy of non-belligerency, declared M. Sarojoglu, the Foreign Minister addressing the People's Party.

Yugoslav forces captured Alessio, 25 miles south-east of Scutari, and reached the outskirts of Mamuras. But the Yugoslavs evacuated their northern frontier region.

Mr. Attlee declared in the House of Commons that the British Government held that the recent *coup* in Iraq was unconstitutional.

11th April.—The Germans captured Zagreb. They declared Croatia an "independent" state. Hungary made haste to recognize the new state.

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The Hungarians entered Yugoslavia and proceeded to occupy territories up to the old frontier before the Treaty of Trianon.

12th April.—The Italians claimed that the Axis forces had established contact with each other in Northern Albania.

Rumanian forces also entered Yugoslavia to "protect" the Rumanian minority in that country.

The U.S.S.R. rebuked Hungary for entering Yugoslavia four months after the signing of a Treaty of Eternal Friendship between the two countries. How would Hungary feel if a foreign power should attack her in a similar manner to settle the minorities question, she asked.

The resolution, deposing Regent Prince Abdul Illah and appointing Sheriff Sharaf instead, passed by the Iraqi Parliament, was considered in London to be of doubtful legality.

13th April.—The Germans bombed Sarajevo and claimed to have inflicted losses on troop-camps and railways.

In a broadcast, Mr. Churchill paid a high tribute to Yugoslav valour.

14th April.—The Germans entered Belgrade.

Sofia was raided by the Royal Air Force.

The British Ambassador to Turkey was received by President Ineunu. Mr. Sarajoglu was present during the interview.

The Royal Air Force and Greek Air Forces hammered the Germans in the Monastir area.

15th April.—Yugoslav forces were stated to be threatening Skoplji and one report said that the town had been captured.

A Cabinet was announced for the German-sponsored State of Croatia.

Hungary has replied to the Soviet, saying that the latter had "misapprehended" her change of policy towards Yugoslavia.

Hitler appointed civil administrators for German-occupied Yugoslavia.

16th April.—It was stated in London that there was an end of unified resistance in Yugoslavia and that only guerilla warfare was considered possible.

Diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were broken off and Bulgarian troops began to occupy that part of Thrace between Alexandropolis and the Struma river

17th April.—The official German News Agency claimed that the Yugoslavs had laid down their arms unconditionally.

SHIPPING SITUATION.

15th April.—It was learned that in future British merchant shipping losses would be published monthly instead of weekly, making it difficult for the enemy to deduce what proportion was due to submarines or mines.

The British losses for the past four weeks were reported to be 394,000 tons.

An armed and heavily laden enemy tanker of about 10,000 tons, bound for a port in occupied France, was sunk by the British submarine Tigris.

THE FAR EAST.

10th April.—Mr. Ohashi, Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, admitted that the "China Incident" was far from its end.

The British Naval Commander-in-Chief of the China Station said that irrespective of American aid, "if the balloon goes up in the Pacific, we will get powerful naval reinforcements quickly."

11th April.—Large quantities of supplies from Russia were reported to have reached China.

12th April.—Mr. Matsuoka and M. Stalin and M. Molotov had discussions for two hours on Japanese-Soviet relations, in Moscow.

13th April.—A Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact was signed at Moscow. It was agreed that in case one of the contracting parties was attacked by a third power, the other party would observe strict neutrality.

14th April.—The Chinese Government formally repudiated the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact, refusing to recognize the authority on any foreign power in Outer Mongolia or in Manchukuo. The clauses in the recent Soviet-Japanese Pact recognizing Soviet rights in Outer Mongolia and Japanese rights in Manchukuo would have no binding force on the Chinese Government.

Mr. Matsuoka left Moscow for Tokyo; M. Stalin saw him off at the station.

15th April.—The Japanese Minister to Australia said that the Russo-Japanese Pact did not imply any threat of a southern drive by Japan.

An early announcement of American aid to China under the Lease and Lend Act was indicated by the Chinese Ambassador to the U.S.A. after a conference at White House.

16th April.—The British Ambassador to Japan called on the Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs at Tokyo to discuss the situation arising out of the Soviet-Japanese Pact.

17th April.—Evidence that Japan was contemplating a southward drive was found in her declaration of a blockade of the South China Coast and in the meeting between the Thailand Premier and Japan's Minister in Thailand.

VICHY.

11th April.—A Communiqué, issued by Marshal Petain, warned Frenchmen against crossing over to Spain or to England to join General de Gaulle's forces.

12th April.—Japanese troops in Indo-China were definitely not in excess of the numbers agreed to in the recent treaty between Indo-China and Japan, declared the Vichy Radio.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

13th April.—Italian troops in large numbers were replacing German troops in occupied France; but it was stated that no Italian troops would be entrusted with coastal defence.

15th April.—In a daring raid on a northern Norwegian port by Norwegian and other Allied warships, communications were cut, local "Quislings" rounded up, stocks of fish oil seized, a factory destroyed and harbour works blown up. The Germans were taken completely by surprise and the Allies left the port without a single loss.

16th April.—A Russo-Belgian agreement for the supply of food-stuffs to Belgium was reached in Moscow.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

13th April.—Mr. De Valera in a broadcast tonight reiterated Irish neutrality but warned the nation to be prepared for all eventualities.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 8th April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over enemy coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 2, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on aerodromes at Maupertuis (near Paris), Caen, Haamstede; Dutch wireless station; shipping off Dutch coast.	2 day-bombers.	..
April 3, Thursday.	R.A.F. day-fighter attacks on aerodromes in Belgium and N. France. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Brest (harbour, dry-dock, battleships); oil stores at Rotterdam; invasion base at Ostend. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	1 day-fighter. 4 night-bombers.	1 night-bomber.
April 4, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on naval craft off French coast. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Brest (warehouses, oil stores, harbour, dry-dock, battleships); oil stores at Rotterdam; industrial objectives in Ruhr.	2 day-bombers. 1 night-bomber.	..
April 5, Saturday.	No reports	..	..
April 6, Sunday.	R.A.F. day fighter attacks on troops, motor-transport, guns and aerodromes (including L'Orient) in N. France. R.A.F. day bomber raids on Ymuiden (iron and steel works, blast furnaces, gas-holders); naval and supply ships off Dutch coast (1 destroyer sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Brest; invasion bases at Ostend and Calais; aerodromes in Holland and Belgium.	3 day-bombers. 1 night-bomber.	1 day-fighter.
April 7, Monday.	R.A.F. day fighter attacks on military transport and aerodromes in N. France. R.A.F. day bomber raids on objectives in Denmark, Holland and Belgium; invasion base at Cherbourg; shipping in N. Sea. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at Kiel (docks, warehouses, Deutschewerke shipyards, submarine-building yards), Bremerhaven and Emden.	1 day-bomber. 4 night-bombers.	..
April 8, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on shipping off Frisian Islands; objectives in occupied territory. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval bases at Kiel, Emden, Bremerhaven; oil stores at Rotterdam. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	5 night-bombers.	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 8th April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy raids (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 2	Nil.	1 day-bomber.
April 3	1 day-fighter.	3 day-bombers.
April 4	Nil.	4 night-bombers.
April 5	Nil.	1 night-bomber.
April 6	Nil.	..
April 7	Nil.	1 day-bomber. 1 day-fighter. 5 night-bombers.
April 8	..	1 day-fighter. 7 night-bombers.

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The week has been full of events of considerable importance. After the capture of Salonika by Germans, Monastir has also fallen while some towns in Yugoslavia including Belgrade have been taken by Nazis. The latest news, however, is to the effect that Yugoslavia is resisting enemy pressure though unified command has ceased and it has taken the important Albanian port of Durazzo. The Greek and British lines from Olympus to Lake Ochrida are being strengthened. This will be a great obstacle to further Nazi moves.

The Imperial Forces in North Africa have had to evacuate after the fall of Benghazi, Derna and Bardia. Tobruk is being strongly defended and a strong attack by enemy infantry supported by tanks has been completely repulsed. Bardia is to the east of Tobruk and the Germans appear to have taken it after making a detour round Tobruk. There is no disposition to take a tragic view of the situation as there is complete confidence in General Wavell's strategy; and Egyptian reports say that reinforcements are pouring in. The British Navy is helping in the attacks on enemy troops. The Royal Air Force is making astonishing progress in pounding enemy positions and American supplies arriving by the Red Sea route should appreciably help the Allies.

An envoy of the Duke of Aosta, has arrived at General Cunningham's Headquarters presumably to negotiate terms of surrender.

Five thousand Italians, and four thousand Africans have been made prisoners since the capture of Addis Ababa.

A remarkable achievement of the British Navy is reported. On Tuesday, an entire enemy convoy consisting of five supply ships, escorted by three destroyers, bound from Sicily for Tripoli, was sunk. Twenty thousand tons of enemy shipping have thus been lost in this encounter having valuable cargo of motor transport, besides the three destroyers. One British destroyer was sunk.

There have been savage raids by the Luftwaffe. Belgrade, though it was declared an open town, was repeatedly shelled from the air and the capital of Yugoslavia is now in ruins. A moving statement has been issued by the Yugoslav Government describing the indiscriminate, savage bombing of Belgrade even before the declaration of the war. Coventry, Birmingham, Bristol, Belfast in Northern Ireland and London have suffered severely at the hands of Germans and numerous buildings have been brought down, while civilian casualties are feared to be heavy. There are, however, a few features of aerial warfare which should be borne in mind. An increasing toll is being taken in Great Britain of German night raiders, a sure indication that arrangements for meeting the night menace are being improved steadily. There is no means of accurately gauging the extent of damage done by the Royal Air Force in Germany and German occupied territories, but it is obvious that the damage caused, especially to industrial plant should be enormous. Another factor is the perfection of the arrangements made *for* co-operation between the air forces and land forces in North and East Africa and in Greece. Finally, Mr. Churchill has referred to the continued and marked improvement of the Royal Air Force as compared with that of Germany. There has been not only an increase in the actual strength, but also in its bombing capacity; further the power and size of the bombers have been enormously increased. Mr. Churchill added: "We have already in our raids excelled in severity anything which any single town has in a single night experienced over here."

A development of some importance is the offer by Britain of a loan £2½ millions to Spain. This step in the policy of assisting the Spanish Government in the work of reconstruction, it is expected, should have a reassuring effect on the relations between Spain and Great Britain.

News of the neutrality pact between Russia and Japan cannot come as a surprise because of the opportunist policy followed by the Soviet Government for some years now. There is a

good deal of speculation on its implications; Russia has gained more than Japan, it is said, while, on the whole, the international situation has not been much altered.

MORE TRIBUTES TO INDIAN TROOPS.

Generous praise has been given to the remarkable achievements of Indian troops in the North and East African campaigns. Speaking in the House of Commons on the 9th April, Mr. Churchill stated that in Eritrea "our Indian troops have at all points and on all occasions sustained the martial reputation of the sons of Hindusthan." In a special personal message to His Excellency the Viceroy, Mr. Churchill said that the whole Empire had been stirred by the achievements of the Indian forces in Eritrea and he added that "the story of ardour and perseverance with which they scaled and finally conquered the precipitous heights of Keren recalls memories of the North-West Frontier of long years ago and it is as one who has had the honour to serve in the field with Indian soldiers from all parts of Hindustan, as well as in the name of His Majesty's Government, that I ask Your Excellency to convey to them and to the whole Indian Army the pride and admiration with which we have followed their heroic exploits."

Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State for India, in a speech on the 8th April, has added his own praise to this remarkable tribute. He particularly emphasized the heroic part played by the Indian troops in reaching unscaleable peaks in Keren. "The Battle of Keren," said Mr. Amery, "would live in the annals of war and would be a proud recollection for all troops, British, Indian and Free French who had participated in it". He gave instances of the "indomitable courage" of the Indian troops and paid a tribute to the "extraordinary feats of endurance and courage" by engineers, supply and ordnance services and the work of stretcher bearers in the front-line medical service. These and the contributions to the War Fund, Mr. Amery added, steadily justified "India's claim to an equal place with ourselves in a free partnership of the British family of nations."

COWARDLY HUNGARY.

Misfortunes never come single. Hungary has invaded Yugoslavia at the bidding of Germany—a disgraceful act and a treacherous proceeding equalled only by the unprovoked and treaty-breaking adventures of Hitler and Mussolini. Hungary, has, as a reference to the map will show, about 250 miles of common frontier with Yugoslavia. She was the first to sign the Protocol of the Three-Power Axis Pact. Ever since the Treaty of Trianon (1920) Hungary had been reduced to a quarter of her pre-Great War size and deprived of sixty per cent of her population. No wonder Hungarians have since then entertained ambitions for the extension of their territory. Hungary has been successful to some extent in realizing her ambitions. Germany has helped her in this reconquest. In the autumn of 1938, by the Vienna arbitration, 4,600 square miles of territory were restored to Hungary and her population was increased by 1,045,000. In March and April, 1939, Hungary annexed a further 4,960 square miles with a population of 672,000 from Czechoslovakia. In August 1940, an agreement was signed in Vienna finally fixing the frontier between Hungary and Rumania. This gave Hungary 45,000 square miles of Transylvania, with a population of 2,800,000. But in this ceded area one half are Hungarians and one half Rumanians and 400,000 Hungarians are still within the borders of Rumania in Southern Transylvania. Future trouble therefore lurks in this agreement and it will be recalled that General Antonescu made the following statement on March 30: "Rumania can never reconcile herself to the situation which has been created and will be forced to request Berlin and Rome to reconsider the Transylvanian question. Until this question is settled there can be no tranquillity in this part of Europe." Of course, Germany's object in encouraging Hungary in pressing her revisionist claims is for the purpose of gaining certain strategic advantages because it provided Germany a convenient jumping off ground for the conquest of Poland and partitioning of Czechoslovakia, for the subjection of Rumania and Bulgaria and the encirclement of Yugoslavia.

Hungarian troops marching into Yugoslavia have occupied Subotica which is the chief town in the territory taken from Hungary and given to Yugoslavia. The plan is to occupy a line formed by the rivers Drave and Danube, the old pre-Trianon Hugarian frontier. This move has been made at the dictation of Germany. It will be remembered that the former Prime Minister Count Teleki, who had never felt happy with the Axis partnership, committed suicide on April 3 because he did not feel able to carry on his difficult task. It was apparently in anticipation of some such pressure on the part of Germany that Count Teleki concluded only four months ago a pact of perpetual friendship with Yugoslavia with the object of removing the causes of political friction and establishing a basis of peaceful collaboration between the two countries. But man proposes and Hitler disposes. Hungary has now been compelled to occupy parts of Yugoslavia and Admiral Horthy, Regent of Hungary, in a tone of quiet decision which ill-accords with the treaty of 'perpetual friendship and non-aggression', has called on Croatia to proclaim its independence and tells the world that Hungary feels it necessary to protect her minorities in Yugoslavia!

Rumania, not to be beaten in this race for preying upon the fallen, is reported to have joined the attack on Yugoslavia. Bulgaria desires to move up her frontier into Yugoslavia and to annex the Strumica salient lost to Yugoslavia. One doubts whether Bulgaria can afford to send her troops because there is Turkey to answer.

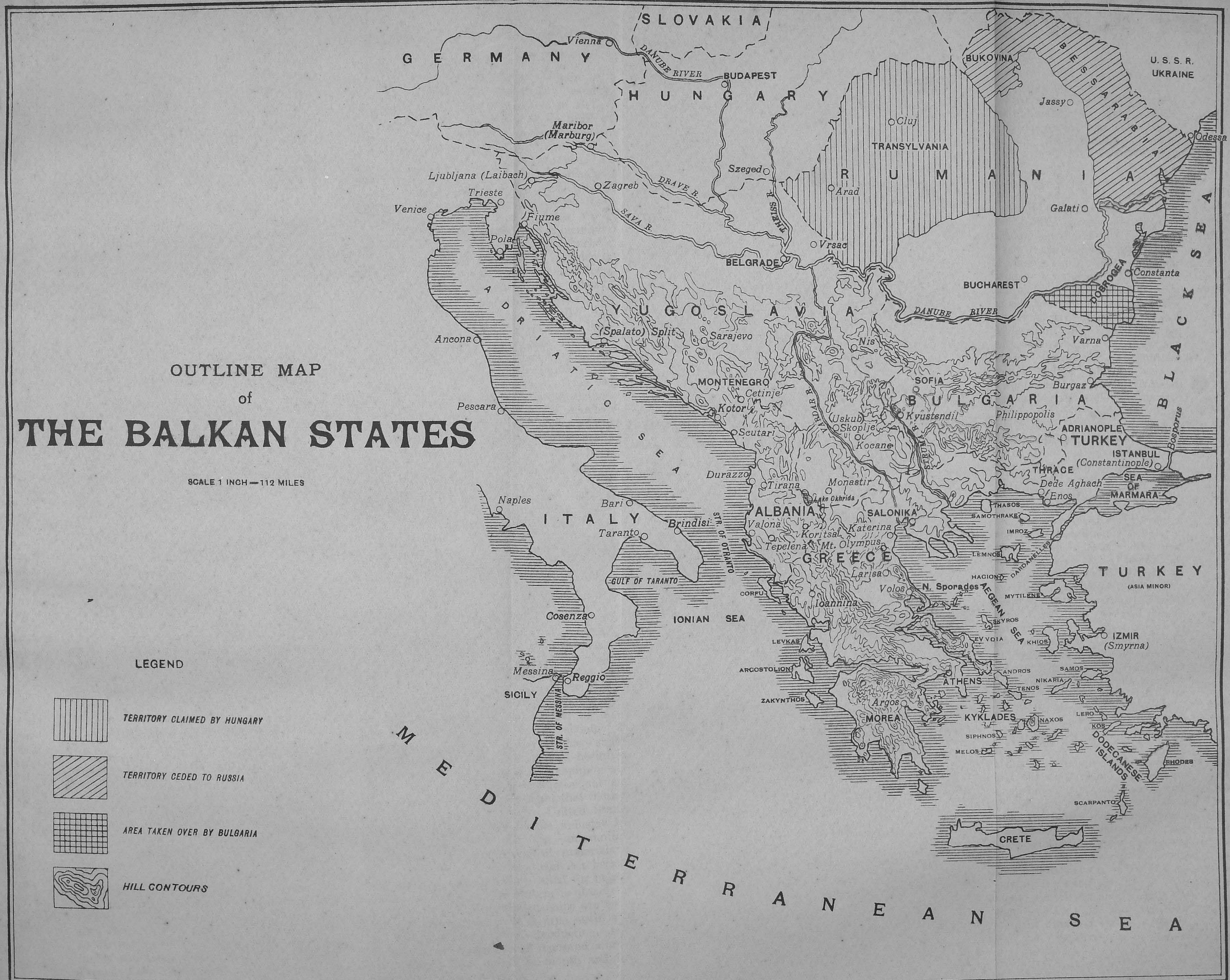
Yugoslavia is, of course, a country populated by many communities—Serbs, Croats, Dalmatians, Montenegrians, Slovenese, Rumanians, Albanians, Bulgarians and Macedonians—but in recent months unity has been to a great extent achieved and Germany has been hard put to it to create minority problems, disaffection and ill-treatment.

No condemnation of Hungary's treachery can be stronger than the Soviet Government's disapproval. The U.S.S.R. has entirely disapproved of Hungary's action "four months after the signing of the treaty of eternal friendship with that country." The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, according to the Moscow radio, asked the Hungarian Minister in Moscow how his country would feel if she should find herself in such a predicament since, in Hungary also, there were substantial national minorities.

Germany has, as already reported, complete plans for the future of Yugoslavia. That country is to be wiped off the map—Serbia being placed under German control, Croatia to be formed mainly to serve the problem of German outlet to the Adriatic, Montenegro to be attached to Albania and Macedonia to be formed into a single protectorate under Bulgarian control. Nothing distinguishes Hitler's plans more than their completeness. The future will disclose how these demon-made projects will emerge into facts!

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

Magnificent as is the help provided by America, it is necessary to remember certain facts in order to remove any apprehension that may be formed in the public mind from statements appearing in newspapers that America is promising more than she is performing. America is a free country. Unlike as in the totalitarian countries, the people think aloud. There is no doubt that these expressions on the part of leaders indicate the trend of public opinion, but for various reasons, that opinion cannot be translated into action. As examples of expressions of opinion the following may be mentioned: that 75 destroyers will be transferred on the passing of the Lease and Lend Act, that the French liner *Normandie* will be used to transport war materials, that 140 merchant vessels will be transferred to Britain at a very early date, that American warships should be used to convoy supplies to Britain and that 500 cargo ships are to be built for Britain and so on. There are also statements as to what the Government of the United States are thinking of. For instance, the United States desires to give the British Navy certain dockyard facilities. It is also true the President has asked Congress for broad statutory authority to take over foreign vessels lying in U.S. ports. It will be remembered that 69 Axis ships in United States' harbours have been seized and this was done under the Act of 1916. Similar action was taken during the Great War. International law allows a free hand to requisition foreign ships on payment of fair compensation. In 1915, Italy seized 37 German ships on this ground, while still at peace with Germany, and this example was followed by Portugal, Brazil, Peru and Spain. It will be seen, therefore, that the protests of the Axis Powers have no basis on legal grounds. Perhaps Hitler anticipated the early seizure of Axis ships in American harbours to release American ships for transfer to Britain and his attempt to sabotage has been forestalled by U.S.A. President Roosevelt has reopened the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to American ships. By this procedure a great quantity of war material will be sent to Egypt, Libya, Greece or other theatres of war. The action of the United States in concluding a treaty with Denmark for securing a base in Greenland is perfectly correct. Denmark has repudiated the agreement and recalled its representative at Washington; but U.S.A. has rejected the protest and the Danish Minister has refused to go to Denmark. The report that similar action will be taken in regard to the Azores in securing bases should, however, be received with caution. It is said that the view is attributed to Colonel Donovan that the United States should institute convoys to give immediate aid for Britain and support is given to that idea by newspapers who say that this bold step should be taken and that a Churchill touch should be imparted to American policy. This should again be received with caution and hesitation as this is only an expression of opinion and not a Presidential or a Congressional act. There can be absolutely no doubt that increasing help is coming from the United States. The great American automobile industry has been virtually turned into big ammunition factories for the production of materials of war. After the Lease and Lend Act became law and nine million dollars voted for help to Britain, material aid for Britain is already on its way. The Axis-controlled ships are being used for this purpose. It is true again that one half of military aircraft production comes to Britain and more than a thousand aircraft are produced from month to month and this production is increasing.



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Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras, 1941.

THE WAR IN THE BALKANS

In reviewing the progress of the war which Hitler, without any provocation, has brought to the Balkans, we must not lose sight of the fact that he opened his campaign with tremendous initial advantages. His armies had already occupied strategic positions in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. His troops and those of his gangster ally, Mussolini, surrounded Yugoslavia from the Adriatic at Fiume to the Greek frontier north of Salonika; they were also spread along the border of Greece from the valley of the Struma river to Turkey in Europe. And the gallant forces of Greece were engaged in a life-and-death struggle with the Italian hordes in Albania. Hitler could deploy a great part of his two hundred divisions in simultaneous operations over a large front against two small countries.

The Germans have been pursuing the same strategy in the Balkans as in France last year when their drive against the " hinge " of the French and Belgian lines operated like a wedge between the Allied armies of the north and the south. Their first objective has been to cut off the Greeks from the Yugoslavs. Hence the German thrust towards Salonika. The Greeks had wisely decided to evacuate Western Thrace, well realizing that they could not defend the long stretch of territory running from the Struma Valley to Turkey along the Aegean coast. British army transport helped in the speedy and safe evacuation of a million people from that area. The Greeks' first line of defence was at the Rupel Pass where the Struma emerges from Bulgaria. And here took place fighting as heroic as any in the wonderful history of Greece. With " Disregard of Death " (to quote an Order of the Day issued by the Greek High Command) as their watchword, the Greeks put up a grand resistance to the German mechanised forces. Forts and important positions changed hands several times during a day's operations, but the Greeks appeared to have definitely slowed down the German advance.

The Germans, however, entered the valley of the Strumnitzla, which runs parallel to the Greek frontier, linking the Struma with the Vardar Valley. The Yugoslav forces were overpowered and had to retreat. A Greek communiqué stated : " The Yugoslav army fighting in South Serbia is withdrawing under pressure, which has uncovered the left wing of our heroic army on the frontier. Nevertheless, our army is fighting with unimaginable personal sacrifice, contesting step by step the soil of our fathers."

The German army reached the Vardar Valley after violent fighting and, advancing down towards Salonika, not only captured that important port but took the Greek forces defending the Rupel Pass in the rear. Salonika is Southern Serbia's outlet to the sea as also Northern Greece's. In taking it, Hitler has secured command of the Northern Aegean coast. Salonika is the terminus of the railway running from Greece northwards along the Vardar Valley to Uskub and thence to Nish, where it connects with the railway linking Belgrade and Sofia; Hitler has, thus, also cut off the supply line from the sea to Yugoslavia. But fortunately the British Navy, as ever, commands the Mediterranean and will no doubt make his hold on Salonika as precarious as possible. It will certainly make heroic efforts to nullify whatever advantages he hopes to reap by the capture of such an important port.

The Greek forces in Eastern Macedonia, which the German occupation of Salonika threatened to cut off from the main army, however, fought a superb rear-guard action and eluded the clutches of the Nazis. And the Greeks inflicted terrific damage on the German armoured units advancing in the Florina sector. The bombing raid on Athens and the Piraeus has only served to stiffen Greek morale.

The German forces had a similar warm reception in Yugoslavia. Unluckily for the latter, her main cities, Belgrade, Zagreb, etc., are in the exposed plains of the north and vulnerable to air attack. And the German High Command, true to their tradition, have not hesitated to order the bombing of open cities. In fact, it is now revealed that German airmen, ready with bombs, were already in the air when Hitler gave the orders to his troops to march. The Germans entered Zagreb, the capital city of the Croats, and with the aid of some " Quislings ", at once proceeded to proclaim an " independent " Croat State. Such arrangements, are however, bound to be temporary as the Croats, who have lined up with their leader, Dr. Matchek, behind the Yugoslav Government, will demonstrate when Hitler is beaten at the end.

The Yugoslav Government, in order to save the city of Belgrade from barbarous massacre from the air, left it for a destination further south. The Germans took Nish and Skoplje and thrust forward from Bulgaria right across Yugoslavia, linking up north of Lake Ochrida with the Italian forces on the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier and holding up the Yugoslav drive into Albania to help the Greeks which had already swept past the very important port of Durazzo. The Yugoslavs counter-attacked violently south-west of Skoplje. Yugoslav hopes of forming a triple front with the British and the Greeks in the south, however, have not been realized yet and Yugoslav commanders in the various isolated sectors have had to act independently though they are doing their jobs remarkably well. It must not be forgotten that the Yugoslavs are a brave nation and their guerilla tactics from their mountain strongholds may play havoc with the German transport lines. And,

after all, the Germans did not have an easy passage across the "waist" of Yugoslavia, though the lack of fighter aircraft and anti-tank guns handicapped the defenders. The Colombia Broadcasting System's correspondent reported that near Skoplje, eighty German tanks were destroyed by hand-gernades and numerous Germans were taken prisoner, including a General. And the Yugoslav Prime Minister, General Simovitch, in a stirring broadcast, said: "Germany's early successes cannot discourage us." Yugoslav fighting units, though isolated, will continue to resist the invaders and the German tanks cannot have such easy successes as in Flanders and in France.

But Hungary has now thought it opportune to claim the territories ceded by her to Yugoslavia by the Treaty of Trianon at the end of the Great War. Hungarian forces, acting under the orders of the Hungarian Regent, have moved into Yugoslavia and occupied territory up to a line formed by the Rivers Drave and Danube, the old frontier. And Rumanian troops are stated to have joined in the attack, ostensibly to improve the lot of the (small) Rumanian minorities in Yugoslavia.

British Imperial troops, it is well known, have been taking up positions in Greece ever since the German divisions started moving across Hungary and Bulgaria to the Yugoslav and Greek borders. General Wavell's victories in the African campaign, in which he put the Italians to rout, enabled him to transport with the aid of the British Navy a considerable body of well-equipped soldiers to Greece; and the Royal Air Force, which was already doing wonderful work to help the Greek army, was also very much strengthened. The German drive in Libya has not interfered with Wavell's plans; for the occupation of almost the entire territory of Abyssinia, Eritrea and Somaliland has enabled him to rush reinforcements to the British Army of the Nile on the Egyptian border without making any calls on his forces in Greece. Under the Command of General Wilson, these forces are holding the zone from Mount Olympus stretching north-west in the direction of Koritza in Albania. The Greeks are coming back from Albania and joining up on the left of the British. The line will put on the right of Mount Olympus. The German Radio admits that Nazi legions have met with fierce resistance from the British. British Infantry units repulsed an attack by the crack Adolf Hitler division in Northern Greece, inflicting heavy losses on the latter. Vigorous artillery fire from the British lines has held up the German advance. The application of reckless pressure by the Germans has only proved costly to them, in men and material without making any great impression on the rock-like British defences. Further contingents of British Imperial forces are arriving in Greece, despite the German propaganda stories that the Empire forces are evacuating it, while American aid will no doubt reach them in double quick time as President Roosevelt has declared the Red Sea a non-combatant area and allowed United States ships to carry arms and munitions straight to Massawa and the port of Ismailia on the Suez Canal. He has also indicated that United States warships will convoy them.

And last, but by no means the least, comes the magnificent work that the Royal Air Force has been accomplishing in the Balkans. As they drove the Italian air force out of the sky over Africa, British airmen seem determined to hold off the German air force and break up German troop concentrations and movements. They twice bombed Sofia, now the German headquarters in the Balkans, more or less as a reprisal for the German raid on the open city of Belgrade. In a combat over the Rupel Pass, they drew first blood from the Germans, bringing down a number of planes without loss to themselves. And every day they are inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the German land forces. The growing strength and striking power of the Royal Air Force cannot be palatable to the German High Command. Hitler cannot hope to repeat his triumph in Norway, where the British forces had no adequate air support. The Royal Air Force ranges the sky from Tripoli to Salonika and from Alexandria to Sofia. It will deal the death blow to German ambitions in the Balkans.

THE FAR EAST

The principal development of considerable interest, so far as the Far East is concerned, is the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact signed on Sunday last in Moscow. This is the result of Mr. Matsuoka's many talks with M. Stalin and M. Molotov and his stay for a week at Moscow on his way to Tokyo. Under Article 1 of this Pact, Russia and Japan agree to maintain peaceful and friendly relations between them and respect each other's territorial integrity and inviolability. Article 2 states that in case either party becomes the object of military aggression by one or more third parties, the other party shall observe neutrality throughout the period of such a conflict. The pact will come into force as soon as ratification is completed and will be valid for a period of five years, after which it will be automatically prolonged for another period of five years unless one of the parties abrogates it one year before its expiration. A joint declaration has also been made saying that Japan respects the territorial integrity and inviolability of the Republic of Mongolia, while the

Soviet Union respects the territorial integrity and inviolability of the Empire of Manchukuo. The Prime Minister of Japan, Prince Konoye, is greatly satisfied that the Pact will contribute in a large measure towards the solution of pending questions between the two countries though Japanese opinion avers that it will be useless unless Soviet help to China is stopped.

It is interesting to observe the reactions in various countries produced by the announcement of this Pact. It is a neutrality agreement which differs from other agreements entered into by Russia, with, for instance, Yugoslavia and Turkey. It is asked, "What would happen if Russia or Japan takes the initiative in military action?" It is generally recognized that, so far as Mongolia and Manchukuo are concerned, the Pact merely recognizes the *de facto* situation. It is anticipated that the other points in dispute between Russia and Japan in regard to trade and fishing will soon be settled.

China is naturally very indignant. She has repudiated the Pact and has stated that she cannot recognize any agreement which is derogatory to her administration or her territorial integrity. The treaty can have no binding force on her as regards either Mongolia or Manchukuo. She asked for information from Russia as to her intention in regard to aiding her against Japan and sht has been told that such help will continue as before.

Russia is undoubtedly a great gainer by this Pact and the United States newspapers stress the fact that she can now face the German menace in the West and follow a more anti-German policy.

Will Japan remain neutral if the Axis powers attack Russia? She might do so according to the Pact. Whether she will do so is another matter.

On the whole, United States' reaction to the Pact is that it is merely a description of the existing situation. American policy in the Pacific will not change, but it will continue to discountenance Japanese aggression. The Pact, of course, removes any apprehension that Japan may have felt that in her drive south she may be attacked in the rear by Russia, but the British lion and the American eagle are there to resist any move on the part of Japan to disturb the *status quo* in the Pacific.

So far as China is concerned Chang Kai-shek is resolved to continue the struggle till the last Japanese leaves China. He is receiving reinforcements from America and Russia. Japan admits that the China "incident" is not likely to be concluded very soon. Responsible statesmen say plainly that it will be a hard, long and bitter struggle.

Will Japan engage herself in further adventures in the Pacific? Hitler ardently desires that Japan should do something in order to engage British and American forces in the Pacific so that the pressure on him in the west may be relaxed and American help may not reach England. Japan has so far received no direct benefits from being a party to the Tripartite Pact and one does not know what promises have been held out to Mr. Matsuoka by Hitler and Mussolini. Baron Hiranuma, Home Minister, addressing the Provincial Governors' Conference at Tokyo, warned them that a fresh big crisis might develop in East Asia at any moment because of the economic blockade against Japan that had been tightened and because increasing assistance was being given by Great Britain and America to China. Prince Konoye has also stated that Japan's object is to prevent America joining the war, though he admits that, so long as Japan is a member of the Axis, the United States is likely to exert economic pressure on Japan. As a matter of fact, it is anticipated that if Japan makes any forward move of an aggressive character, there will be increasing pressure on the U.S. Government by the public for banning the export of all war materials to Japan. Aviation petroleum is already on the embargo list, but public opinion will insist that the embargo should be made a hundred per cent success. Mr. Matsuoka's visit to Europe, the barter agreement between Japan and Russia which is stated to be nearing completion and the Neutrality Pact just entered into by those two countries cannot but have repercussions in the United States.

Now, let us consider for a moment what the Japanese have been doing during the last few months. Japan has secured valuable strategic bases in Thailand and Indo-China. Her influence in these two countries is now very great. So far as the Dutch East Indies are concerned the recent agreement for the supply to Japan by the Netherlands Government of oil and other materials is of some importance. But the Dutch Government have so far valiantly refused to agree to bring the Netherlands East Indies under the New Order for the East proclaimed by Japan. This attitude has, of course, been a thorn on the side of Prince Konoye who laments that the Government of the Netherlands East Indies hesitate to enter into any long-range commercial agreement because she apprehends that much of that material would go to Germany through Japan. He also suspects that the Dutch Government are stubborn because of the influence of Great Britain and the belief, widely entertained there, that Britain will win in the end.

Japan has, of course, become an adept in waging a war of nerves. Contradictory statements are being made from time to time so as to confuse the world as to her real intentions, but certain developments in regard to the disposition of her fighting forces should be noted. Japanese troops are stationed in Indo-Chinese territory. A new landing has been made in Kwangchow Bay in Kwangtung Province near Hongkong. In Southern China considerable forces are stationed. In Hainan, an island off the coast of French Indo-China,

she has land, navy and air forces and she has also landed troops on the island of Formosa. Japan has also bases in Yap and Palau islands, south of Guam and near enough to the Philippines.

So far as the British are concerned, Malaya and Singapore at its base, have been strengthened. Australian troops have landed in Singapore and the Air Force of that great bastion of liberty in the Far East has been considerably strengthened. Australia has recognized that for her defence the strengthening of Singapore is absolutely essential and of her own volition she has sent her troops to that great fortified naval base which is a formidable obstacle for any power hoping to come from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean. Singapore is also joined to Johore by a causeway. The dock of Singapore, it is said, will take ships of 50,000 tons and powerful artillery defences have been installed. In the last few weeks the military status of Burma has been raised and her defences are being strengthened. Great Britain has also Hongkong, and Empire troops are at Fiji.

The United States has a series of bases in the Pacific. Starting from San Diego on the west coast of the United States, she has Honolulu, 2,000 miles from the west coast of America. Then there is Wake Island 2,000 miles further on; Guam is 1,300 miles still further and Manila in the Philippines is 600 miles from Hongkong. There is also Midway, forming an equilateral triangle with Honolulu and Wake, and there is Dutch Harbour in Alaska which belongs to the United States. These bases belonging to America can supply oil and fuel to the warships and airships and are hopping stations for long-range aeroplanes.

The Netherlands East Indies, that is, New Guinea, Borneo and Sumatra have their own defences, land forces, naval craft, including submarines and aeroplanes. They can in a contingency be greatly helped by the British forces, say from Singapore, which is very near Sumatra. The Dutch East Indies are, as a matter of fact, placed in a very convenient position to be supported from Manila in the north, Singapore in the west and Australia in the south and south-east.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-Chief of the Far East, has recently been going to Hongkong, Manila and other places and his conclusion, after a close and first-hand study of the defences, is that Hongkong and Singapore are formidable and any venture by any Power would prove very costly. The Commander-in-Chief has had talks with American experts at Manila in the Philippines. It should be remembered that British and American interests in the Far East coincide and that they are in complete agreement in regard to the arrangements which have to be made and perfected for meeting any contingency.

MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH

THE SETBACK.

Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England, made an important speech on Wednesday, April 9. In his characteristic way he made no attempt to hide unpleasant facts or to gloss over setbacks. About Benghazi he said: "The loss of Bengazhi and the withdrawal imposed upon us by the German incursion into Cyrenaica are injurious chiefly on account of valuable air fields around Benghazi which have now passed into enemy hands." He revealed the fact that British commanders did not expect such strong armoured forces on the African shores. Mr. Churchill said that for the defence of Cyrenaica and Egypt severe fighting might be expected and he made it clear that future operations would depend only on military considerations and not on prestige values.

As regards the Battle of the Atlantic, Mr. Churchill said that "losses in British ships and their tonnage is very heavy and vast as are our resources, these losses could not continue indefinitely without seriously affecting our war effort. We have lost since the beginning of the war nearly four million tons of British shiping. As against this we have gained under the British flag over three million tons of foreign or newly constructed tonnage. Therefore, at the moment, our enormous fleets sail the seas without any serious or obvious diminution. The prospect would be gloomy but for the fact that several million tons of American ship-building will be available in the course of the next year and this will be supplemented by building schemes now in operation in Great Britain, Canada and Australia." To counteract the U-boat and surface raiders Mr. Churchill announced that United States revenue cutters—fast vessels of about 2,000 tons with fine armaments and a wide range of endurance—had already been placed at the disposal of the British Government and would be in action. The speech contained an appeal to Eire to realize that "it is as much in their interests as it is in ours that our naval and air forces must operate even further in the Atlantic."

GREECE.

Mr. Churchill referred to the futile attempts made by Great Britain to bring about a united Balkan front against Hitler's drive. Belgrade refused permission to Mr. Eden to enter the city. But Greece told Mr. Eden that she was resolved "to defend her freedom and native soil against aggression at all costs even if they were left wholly unsupported by Britain or Turkey or Yugoslavia." After this manly resolve, Great Britain had no hesitation in arriving at the conclusion that "we should share their ordeal and that the soldiers of the British Empire must stand in line with them." This decision was reached especially because British Generals told the Government that a safe military plan giving prospects of success could be made.

Mr. Churchill compared Hitler's action in relation to Yugoslavia to that of a boa-constrictor who had already covered its prey with its foul saliva and then had it suddenly wrested from its coils. " The supine miscreant, " he said, " began his invasion of Yugoslavia with a howl of hatred " and it was to counter this move that Great Britain had promised Yugoslavia material help. After referring to the successes in Eritrea and Abyssinia, Mr. Churchill said, " When we look back upon the forlorn position in which we were left in the Middle East by the French collapse, we see the situation has been marvellously transformed, that we have taken more Italian prisoners than we had troops, that the British Empire had fought alone and conquered alone except for the aid of the gallant Free French and Belgian Forces."

UKRAINE.

After referring to the fact that it was not possible to anticipate Hitler's next move, the Prime Minister said that there were indications that an attempt would be made to secure the granary to Ukraine and the oilfields of Caucasus, as a means of gaining the resources with which to wear down the English-speaking world. " Once we have gained the Battle of the Atlantic, " said Mr. Churchill, " and are sure of a constant flow of American supplies, then, however far Hitler may go or whatever new millions or scores of millions he may lay in misery, armed with the sword of retributive justice we shall be on his track."

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

" A New Crime Against Europe "—Berlin radio.

On May 10, 1940, the Berlin radio declared : " The Allies have made up their minds to attack Germany through Holland and Belgium "—and then went on to announce the German invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg.

On April 6, 1941, the Berlin radio declared : " Britain is about to commit a new crime against Europe "—and then went on to announce the German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece.

As always, when the Nazis are making a fresh assault on their neutral neighbours, Berlin's radio programmes on Sunday consisted largely of patriotic songs and military marches, interspersed with repetitions of the Fuehrer's latest exhortation to his subjects—who, after being promised peace by last Christmas, now find themselves committed to war with two more European nations.

Peace-Mongering ?

Modestly enough, Hitler describes Britain as " the greatest war-monger of all time ". Surely Hitler's Germany has not done too badly in that respect? Since September 1939, the Reich has invaded Poland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Luxemburg, Greece and Yugoslavia—all of them neutrals until Nazi troops crossed their borders.

" A band of ruffians " and " a criminal, British-paid clique ", is how the Fuehrer describes the Yugoslav Government—oblivious of the fact that a week ago his own Berlin radio was describing that same Government as having been formed solely for puropses of internal reconstruction, while his friend Stalin has even more recently acknowledged its efforts for peace.

The Old Enemy.

Here are some other points from Hitler's latest apologia :—

" Britain still lets others fight for her." To take only one arm of Britain's fighting services, the Royal Air Force to date has destroyed at least 5,000 of the enemy's warplanes.

" After the campaign in the West, Mr. Churchill concentrated the whole strength of his Empire against our ally, Italy in Africa." If Britain herself has been thus denuded, why has Germany not invaded her, instead of two small Balkan nations?

" The British danger in the African theatre of war has been banished by the co-operation of Italian and German units." That co-operation has come too late to save the Italians in Eritrea, Abyssinia and Somaliland, parts of the African theatre whence the Axis vainly hoped to launch a flank attack on the Suez Canal.

" The Belgrade *coup-d'état* was followed by the persecution of Germans in Yugoslavia." That familiar-sounding lie had already been refuted by leaders of the German community in Yugoslavia throughout last week.

That Convoy Incident.

Referring on April 2 to what it persists in calling the British attack on a French convoy off the Algerian coast, Berlin says that four people were killed and seven severely injured.

To begin with, the British naval force did not at any time attack the French convoy, even when the latter ignored a perfectly legitimate demand that the French vessels should stop and submit to search. Consequently, any casualties which may have occurred were the result of the British warships' replying in self-defence to the French shore-batteries which, without any possible justification, opened fire on them. It is known that direct hits were scored on the shore-batteries.

Revolt in the Mountains.

The Nazi radio on April 3, quoted a Rome statement that the Italian troops had evacuated Asmara, capital of Eritrea, in order to prevent further British bombardment, " which had already caused hundreds of casualties to the Italian and native population ".

The swift fall of Asmara was due to a revolt among the Italian Colonial garrison, which led the Italian bishop and the Chief of Police to appeal to the British forces to occupy the town and restore order. Almost exactly similar circumstances preceded the British occupation of Harrar, in Abyssinia, the two incidents occurring within a day or two of each other.

Friendship's End.

Reporting the death of the Hungarian Premier, who is now known to have committed suicide, the German wireless said on April 3: "Count Teleki led Hungary's policy with firm determination and in a spirit of co-operation with the Axis powers. Germany mourns the loss of a staunch friend."

Count Teleki, who shot himself through the head, left a letter declaring himself unable to carry on his "difficult and unhappy task". The announcement of his death coincided with reports that German troops were passing through Hungary towards Yugoslavia, a country with which Count Teleki had laboured long and hard to establish friendly relations.

Another Nazi Misquotation.

Lord Cranbourne, Secretary of State for the Dominions, is the latest British leader to be deliberately misquoted by the Germans. On April 4, Berlin reported him as stating categorically that the British Government had no intention whatsoever of including Dominion representatives in the War Cabinet.

What Lord Cranbourne actually said was that the Government opposed the suggestion as not being at present practicable and possible. But, he added, a point might be reached when a conference of Dominion Prime Ministers would be not only important but essential.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Axis Sabotage.

According to the Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of April 3, the German newspaper *D. D. P. Korrespondez* characterised the seizure of German and Italian ships by the U.S.A. Government as illegal. It also wrongly stated that the sailors of those countries had done nothing prejudicial to America.

America's action, taken under a law passed during the Great War of 1914–18, was perfectly legal. And as for the German and Italian sailors, they were engaged in acts of sabotage culminating in the burning of seven Axis ships in American harbours. Furthermore, warrants have been issued in Washington accusing 100 Germans and 75 Italians of violation of immigration laws by staying in port over the statutory limit of 60 days permitted to alien seamen.

Meanwhile, Berlin announces with unction that the Danish Foreign Ministry has instructed its envoy in Washington to protest to the U. S. Government against the measures taken against Danish ships in American and Philippine ports. The Danish Legation in Washington—which has the Atlantic between itself and Nazi influence—announces: "We have not protested, and are not going to protest, against the seizure of Danish ships".

Britain "Delivering the Goods".

The Nazi broadcast in Hindustani and Persian quoted on April 4 an unnamed Argentine newspaper as stating that the German submarines were dealing heavy blows at British merchant shipping.

But Britain is still delivering the goods. Interesting neutral comment on Britain's shipping position appeared in the Swedish newspaper, *Morgen Posten*, of March 27, in which tribute was paid to the continuity of British trade. The newspaper proceeded: "It is a remarkable performance of increased deliveries of textiles, chemical and electrical goods. Countries have found that they can depend not only on Britain's delivery of the goods ordered, but on their delivery in time. Neither U-boats nor bombers have been able to break the British shipping patrols".

How Vichy helps the Nazis.

Berlin's Hindustani bulletin of March 31, alluding to the incident off the Algerian coast when four French merchantmen passed the British contraband control, reported French circles as stating that the convoy was carrying rice, sugar and cereals to Algéria. Besides the fact that the French convoy's refusal to submit to search suggested that it was carrying war materials for German use it is definitely known that at least one of the four French ships was carrying a cargo of rubber, of which commodity Germany is very short.

It is also known that French vessels have been carrying goods destined for Germany, and most revealing in this connection is a programme for French railway transport drawn up by the Germans, covering January 15 to March 1, which has fallen into British hands. According to this programme, 30,000 tons of bauxite, 10,000 tons of aluminium and thousands of tons of rubber were to be transferred from or *via* unoccupied France to Germany.

British Naval Victory.

Both the German and the Italian broadcasts, while referring to the naval action in the Eastern Mediterranean, which will be known to history as the battle of Cape Matapan, stated that one large British cruiser was sunk and other British ships were seriously damaged.

It appears that, to console the Italians for losses so heavy that they could not be concealed, Axis propaganda had to inflict imaginary losses on the British—whose total losses in actual fact, amounted to one aircraft.

England's Cotton Trade.

The Nazi broadcast of April 2 stated that the German naval and air raids had hit Britain's cotton trade so hard that the Liverpool cotton market had been closed. That Britain's cotton trade still flourishes is proved by the fact that she was in a position to purchase Egypt's entire cotton crop last year. When it is remembered that Great Britain needs for her own use only about one-third of the cotton she has purchased and that the remainder was probably resold, it becomes quite clear that the flow of British trade is still strong.

Truthful Tail-piece.

The German broadcast of April 3 claimed that the German High Command communiqués were always truthful. One of the latest examples of Nazi "truth" is their claim to have sunk 387,000 tons of shipping during the week ending at midnight on March 22, while in actual fact shipping lost during that period amounted to 59,141 tons.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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